

# ***IOWA OUTDOORS***

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

**[www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)**

**Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653**

**[mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us)**

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**Oct. 23, 2007**

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## **IOWA PHEASANT SEASON OPENS SATURDAY**

By Lowell Washburn

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Anticipation is mounting. For upland bird hunting enthusiasts, the long agonizing wait is nearly over. The 2007 Iowa pheasant season begins Saturday.

No matter how you slice it, the annual pheasant opener represents nothing less than Iowa's Sporting Event of the Year. With an estimated 120,000 ring-neck enthusiasts taking to the fields this Saturday, nothing can stand in its shadow.

There's a good reason why these gaudy, fast flying gamebirds create such a stir. Of all the outdoor experiences a person can encounter, few thrills compare to the explosive, heart stopping flush of a cackling rooster.

As is the case with most upland gamebirds, pheasant populations are subject to extreme cycles of boom and bust. Boom cycles are what hunters live for. By contrast, the fall seems ruined when the numbers crash. This year, Iowa hunters will find pheasant populations somewhere between those extremes. Although there are some fluctuations statewide, overall bird numbers are essentially the same as last year.

Bird numbers remain average to very strong across much of central, north central, and northwest Iowa. In the southwest, pheasants suffered a significant decline for the second consecutive year and are down 37 percent from last season.

But regardless of how many roosters are actually lurking in your favorite hunting hot spot, Opening Weekend success will largely depend on those two all important, make or break the hunt factors --- weather conditions and corn harvest.

Extreme heat, driving rains, and excessive winds spell bird hunting disaster. By contrast, fair skies, moderate breeze, and morning frost all but guarantee roast pheasant for Sunday dinner. As far as the Opening Day weather goes this year, we'll just have to wait and see. After all, this is Iowa.

The status of this year's crop harvest is much easier to predict. As of Monday, a little less than half of the corn crop was out of the field and in the bin. This is nearly identical to where the harvest stood at this same time last year. As far as pheasant hunting is concerned, the conditions couldn't be better --- especially for those of us who will be tromping the fields for the entire season.

Here are the facts. Come Saturday's opener, there will be enough corn harvested to make a reasonably good number of birds available to hunters. The other side of the coin is that there is also enough corn left standing to provide tens of thousands of acres of temporary pheasant refuge. As the harvest continues, those fields will insure a dependable supply of naïve, yet-to-a-see-a-hunter roosters in the weeks ahead.

If the weather cooperates and the bird dogs behave, pheasant hunters can expect good things from the season ahead.

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## **APPROACH OF DEER BREEDING SEASON HERALDS TIME FOR INCREASED CAUTION ON IOWA'S HIGHWAYS**

A deer-vehicle collision can happen at any time in Iowa and it is important for motorists to remain alert for deer, livestock, other wildlife, and obstacles that can pose a hazard while driving. With fall well under way, it is a time for drivers to exercise even more caution as many deer-vehicle collisions occur in the fall months during the white-tailed deer's breeding season or "rut."

By the latter part of October, bucks become more active with the approaching rut, increasing their activity and travels in search of does ready to breed. The animal's attention is on other things and their vigilance when crossing a road is decreased. In addition to this the bucks are often crossing roads in areas they are not familiar with or in places they would usually not cross.

As the rut progresses, and does begin to come into breeding condition, it is normal for them to be chased for a period of time by one or more bucks. This creates a situation with multiple, fast-moving, deer crossing highways that are often oblivious to traffic.

In order to help avoid collisions with deer during late October and November, drivers should utilize extra care while driving. Deer may be moving at any time of the day or night and crossing roads at unexpected places. Drivers should be constantly scanning the roadside ditches for deer approaching the highway and understand that their actions will be more unpredictable than usual. If the driver can spot the deer before it enters the roadway their chances for avoiding a collision are greatly increased.

When driving at night, it is recommended that drivers do not use cruise control as the vehicle remains under full power until the brake or clutch pedal is depressed and this can mean the difference between avoiding a collision and having one. Driving slower at night also provides an extra margin of safety. If you have another vehicle in front of you, utilize their headlights to help you scan the roadsides that are beyond the reach of the lights on your vehicle. Also, switching headlights to low beam after a deer is sighted can often “unfreeze” a deer and encourage it to move off the roadway. Avoid passing in posted deer crossing areas if possible.

Although the risk of hitting a deer increases in the fall, this risk can be minimized by remaining alert and driving defensively. Of course, there are situations where a collision cannot be avoided and it is important to remember that it is usually safer to hit the animal than to leave the roadway or to swerve into oncoming traffic.

The number of deer-vehicle collisions has been relatively consistent for the past three years. The Iowa DNR has population goals and hunting seasons for much of Iowa that are intended to significantly lower current deer densities. Achievement of these goals should result in a lower rate of deer-vehicle collisions for Iowa as a whole.

**For more information, contact Tom Litchfield, state deer biologist at (641) 774-2958.**

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### **Best Public Education Program Iowa DNR Project A.W.A.R.E**

The Iowa Recycling Association's Best Public Education Program award recognizes excellence in the creation and implementation of holistic approaches in environmental programs, activities and events initiated to change the actions, attitudes and behaviors of diverse audiences regarding environmental issues. *Holism*, a Greek word meaning all, entire, total, is a term that the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition) has

not only embraced but has further defined through the implementation of a highly aggressive annual water cleanup project.

### **From a Splash to a Raging Force**

Project AWARE, a weeklong volunteer river cleanup and watershed awareness event, began in 2003 with a splash of interest by 35 environmentally minded volunteers who worked to clean up the Maquoketa River and from those headwaters has literally grown into a raging force in the protection and cleanup of Iowa's historic and picturesque waterways. Using holistic approaches in promotion, marketing, event coordination and education the program encompasses support, volunteers and interest from a cross-section of Iowa's population and beyond.

### **Interest Evoked through Evolution**

Project AWARE is similar to Iowa's waterways, constantly evolving and changing to adjust to weather patterns and seasons or in this case, varied interests and project ownership. One of the most visible AWARE innovations has been the formation of an artistic off-shoot of the program entitled *Riverse*. During this volunteer-driven effort, Ogden artist David Williamson painstakingly guides everyday citizens as they transform refuse collected from the cleanup efforts into amazingly detailed, water-related sculptures and thought-provoking written works of poetry.

### **Tangible Results**

Since its inception, Project AWARE event coordinators, with the assistance of more than 850 participants, (this year's roster topping 400 respectively) and the generosity of numerous host sites and sponsors have been ultimately responsible for removing 1,000 cubic yards which is equal to 189 10-wheel dump trucks from nearly 500 miles of Iowa waterways. As another holistic innovation conceived in the projects second year and through extensive recycling efforts, AWARE manages to maintain an astounding average landfill diversion rate of eighty-four percent. As this effort continues to grow year by year it undeniably evokes the interest of more and more people in interacting with their natural environment in very positive ways.

"By branching out in very innovative ways Project AWARE peaks the interest of a very diverse groups of individuals who come together with varying intentions but yield the all-important overall goal of protecting and enhancing Iowa's waterways through recycling," stated Erin Novak, Iowa Recycling Association President. "Project AWARE is a visible example of the true intention behind this award and we are honored in presenting them with this year's Best Public Education Campaign award."

For more information about Project AWARE contact Brian Soenen at (515) 205-8587 or [Brian.Soenen@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Brian.Soenen@dnr.iowa.gov)

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## **CURRENT DEER AND TURKEY HARVEST NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

BOONE – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has added a new webpage showing a summary of hunter-reported deer and turkey harvest in Iowa by county.

To view the page, go to [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) and click on hunting and wildlife, then click on Deer and Turkey Harvest by County in the far left column under Common Requests. The information is updated hourly by Central Bank, of Jefferson City, Mo., who manages the DNR license sales system.

“The page went live a few weeks ago and so far we’ve had no problems,” said Steve Roberts, biological statistician with the DNR’s Boone Research Station. The information covers the current deer and fall turkey hunting seasons, as well as the reported harvest from the 2007 spring turkey season.

Roberts said he received a number of inquiries on deer harvest by county last year, and this new website should allow people to get that information faster, 24 hours a day.

**For more information, contact Roberts at 515-432-2823.**

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## **IOWANS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS WEEKEND**

Every year, Iowa’s state parks and recreational areas make such a difference to visitors seeking beautiful scenery and cherished outdoors activities. This month, Iowans can in turn make a difference during a national day of helping others.

On Oct. 27, volunteers across the country will lend a hand to thousands of projects during the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Make a Difference Day. The Iowa DNR’s Keepers of the Land volunteer program invites Iowans to make a difference to Iowa’s natural resources.

Interested parties can visit the Keepers of the Land website [www.keepersoftheland.org](http://www.keepersoftheland.org) for an opportunity that interests them or simply contact their favorite state park or recreation area to find out about ways they can make a difference.

Opportunities include building or clearing trails, removing invasive species, picking up litter, helping with maintenance and construction and many other fun and

rewarding tasks. Visit <http://www.iowadnr.com/parks/index.html> for a list of Iowa state parks and for contact information.

Make a Difference Day brings millions of volunteers together who complete numerous projects to help out their neighbors and their communities. Last year, 3 million Americans volunteered across the country.

Partner organizations with the Keepers of the Land also have volunteer opportunities to make a difference. Visit the Keepers on-line website events calendar for more information. Upcoming Keepers opportunities include:

- Wildlife monitoring volunteer training, help monitor Iowa's raptors and colonial water birds -Oct. 27 (Burlington), Nov. 3 (Maxwell) and Nov. 10 (Ruthven). Contact Stephanie Shepherd at (515) 432-2823 or at [stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov) or visit our website.

For more information, contact Merry Rankin at (515) 281-0878 or at [merry.rankin@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:merry.rankin@dnr.iowa.gov) .

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## ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of October 23, 2007**

**[www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)**

**This is the final fishing report for the fall.** Fishing reports will resume when ice conditions are sufficient to support general fishing activity. For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

### **Northwest**

**Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): Bluegill fishing has been good at the North Grade and Buffalo Run using small plastics jigs and wax worms, and around Hales Slough from a boat. Yellow perch fishing is good around weed lines on the south shoreline and at Hales Slough using small jigs.

**West Okoboji** (Dickinson): Muskie fishing is fair to good casting large muskie lures. Smallmouth bass fishing is good on shallow rocks using jigs and plastics. Anglers are catching yellow perch fishing the weed beds in Smith's Bay, the North Bay and Emerson Bay. Bluegill fishing is good in many areas of the lake small jigs tipped with garden worms. To find bluegills, find standing vegetation.

**East Okoboji** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing continues to improve casting jigs near bridges. White bass fishing is good near bridge areas in the evening.

**Little Spirit** (Dickinson): Fishing is good for panfish on the south end of the lake.

**Five Island** (Palo Alto): Anglers are catching channel catfish in the evening. Fishing for panfish is good around the railroad bridge.

**North Twin Lake** (Calhoun): Yellow bass fishing is fair on night crawlers. Fishing is fair for bluegill and crappie.

**Black Hawk Lake** (Sac): Fishing is good for 7-inch bluegills off the west stone pier. Some crappies are being caught using jigs off the floating dock in Town Bay and other docks around the lake. A few catfish are still being caught on various baits.

**Storm Lake** (Buena Vista): Fishing is fair for catfish, especially near rocky shoreline at night. A few walleyes are being caught on twisters. Fishing is fair for white bass.

**Brushy Creek** (Webster): Bluegill fishing is good using a small hook and bait right off the bottom in 8 to 15 feet of water. Bass can be caught throughout the lake. A few crappies have been caught on minnows.

**Yellow Smoke** (Crawford): Anglers are catching a few nice crappies from the fishing pier on the south side of the lake, using minnows.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass are hitting live bait or cut bait. The Baptist Camp, artificial weed beds, deep water around the Island, and shorelines with wave action are producing the best catches. Yellows in the 7 to 9-inch range are being caught, along with a few of the larger ones. Walleye fishing is good around the rock reefs and rush beds using a jig and night crawler, cut bait, and trolling crankbaits.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

### **Southwest**

**Icaria** (Adams): Anglers are catching mid sized walleye on crankbaits.

**Three Mile** (Union): A few walleye can be caught off the big points on crankbaits. Crappies can be caught from the flooded trees in the coves on jigs or minnows.

**Twelve Mile** (Union): Mid-sized walleye can be caught on crankbaits in 6 to 12 feet of water.

**Contact Gary Sobotka at (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes.**

**Big Creek** (Polk): Crappies are still providing action on small jigs or minnows fished near structure or trees in the Lost Lake area. Bass fishing is pretty good fishing spinner baits.

**Saylorville Lake** (Polk): Lots of channel cats are being caught on worms or shad below the Big Creek spillway.

**Ahquabi** (Warren): Bluegills are biting using small jigs or a piece of worm. Bass are being caught fishing spinner baits.

**Easter Lake** (Polk): Anglers are catching 8 to 9-inch crappies on jigs or minnows. Channel catfish are still biting on night crawlers. A few walleyes are being picked up.

**Don Williams** (Boone): Crappies and bluegill fishing is fair right now. Jigs and minnows have been working the best. Channel catfish are biting cut bait around rocks. Bass fishing is fair using spinner baits and crankbaits.

**Rock Creek** (Jasper): Bluegills and crappies are biting on small jigs with some fish up to 9 inches. Channel catfish are biting night crawlers and cut bait.

**Robert's Creek** (Marion): Big crappies have been consistently caught with jigs and minnow fished near structure.

**Banner Lake** (Warren): Trout were stocked on Oct. 18 and are biting a variety of baits.

**Contact Ben Dodd at (515) 432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes**

**Orient** (Adair): Channel catfish fishing is fair during the day on prepared baits and liver. Bluegills are fair using small jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using a slow retrieve and plastic worms in the evenings.

**Nodaway** (Adair): Bluegill and crappie are slow, but a few are being caught around brush piles. Channel catfish is fair using liver in the evenings.

**Greenfield** (Adair): Bluegill fishing is fair around brush piles or drifting jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing has slowed; try using plastic baits around sunken trees. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using liver.

**Morman Trail** (Adair): Bluegills are slow. Try vertical jigging small jigs tipped with worms around sunken trees. Channel catfish is fair using liver around jetties and in the shallow bays in the evening. Largemouth bass can be caught on plastic baits.

**Littlefield** (Audubon): Crappie fishing is slow, but a few are being caught drifting a jig and minnow. Bluegills are slow casting a small jig tipped with night crawlers. Channel catfish has been fair in shallow bays and corners of the dam using stink bait.

**Anita** (Cass): Anglers are catching 7 to 8-inch bluegills using jigs from shore and around edges of vegetation. Channel catfish, from 2 to 6 pounds, are being caught on night crawlers and blood bait. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair for fish up to 20 inches. Crankbaits and jigs have been used around brush piles and rock piles.

**DeSoto Bend** (Harrison): Crappie fishing is slow. Channel catfish is fair using dip baits with a red worm.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Channel catfish is fair drifting cut bait or shrimp. A few wipers are being caught on the east side of lake throwing twister tails.

**Arrowhead** (Pottawattamie): Bluegills are slow using jigs with night crawlers. The fish are 7 to 8 inches. Channel catfish are fair using liver and prepared bait close to shore around jetties. Small crappies are being caught from shore using jigs.

**Prairie Rose** (Shelby): Fishing is slow for crappies and bluegills drifting jigs tipped with minnows or night crawlers. Channel catfish is slow fishing shallow bays with liver. A few largemouth bass are being caught using crawdad-colored lures.

**Willow** (Harrison): Bluegill fishing is slow with a few fish being caught on jigs tipped with night crawlers. Fishing has been fair for 12 to 14-inch largemouth bass on plastic worms and crankbaits.

**Schaben** (Harrison): Bluegills are fair using small jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass are also being caught on night crawlers and plastic baits.

**Middle Raccoon River** (Guthrie): No Report.

**Farm Ponds** are good for largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. Be sure to ask permission from the landowner first.

**Contact Bryan Hayes at (712) 769-2587 for information on the above area lakes.**

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

### **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 to 20:** With recent rains the Mississippi River in Pools 16 to 20 has risen nearly a foot over the weekend. Water temperature throughout the pools is around 59 degrees. With the rise in river stage and muddier water, fishing has slowed a bit.

**Pool 16:** Current river stage at Lock and Dam 15 is 9.75 feet and is forecasted to stay steady over the next week. A few walleyes are being caught on wing dams around the **I-280 Bridge** using three-way rigs with minnows or on crankbaits. A few walleyes are also being caught in **Sylvan Slough**. Catfish are being caught on shad guts and night crawlers around the mouth of the **Rock River** and in the **Sunset Marina** area. White bass are being caught in Sylvan Slough, on the ends of wing dams, and in the Sunset Marina.

**Pool 17:** Current river stage at Lock and Dam 16 is 8.88 feet and is expected to slowly fall over the next week. Crappies are being caught in the **Big Timber backwater** complex using minnows. Bluegills are also being caught in the Big Timber area using wax worms and pieces of night crawler. White bass are being caught up by the dam and off the tips of wing dams.

**Pool 18:** Current river stage at Lock and Dam 17 is 11.5 feet and is forecasted to slowly fall over the next week. Crappies are being caught in the **Huron Island backwater** using minnows. Bluegills are also being caught in the backwaters using wax worms. Channel catfish are being caught on shad guts and night crawlers. White bass are being caught in the tailwaters of Lock and Dam 17.

**Pool 19:** Current river stage at Lock and Dam 18 is 7.86 feet and is expected to start falling slowly over the next week. Crappies are being caught in the backwaters on minnows. A few channel catfish are being caught on shad guts and night crawlers.

**Pool 20:** River stage at Lock and Dam 19 is 11.06 feet. Channel catfish are being caught along the sides of the main channel on stink baits, shad guts and night crawlers. A few largemouth bass are being caught on spinner baits. White bass are being caught in the tailwaters along the rocky shorelines.

**Lake Darling** (Washington): Crappies are starting to move shallow for the fall feeding frenzy. Catfishing picked up with the rain last Wednesday but the creek is just about back to normal. It might be worth a try if it rains again.

**Lake Geode** (Henry): The road at Geode from the beach turn off by the campground all the way to the turn off at the dam on Hwy. J-20 remains closed as construction has fallen behind schedule. Both boat ramps and the beach remain closed. The only access points on the lake will be shore fishing from the dam/spillway areas, shelter 3 and shelter 4 on the south end of the lake. It may be the first of November before it will be done.

**Lake Belva Deer** (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing slowed this last week. Anglers are still catching some catfish.

**Lake Odessa** (Louisa): Anglers were catching some nice stringers of crappies in the Horseshoe Bend and Burris Ditch areas. Look for crappies around the tree falls and beaver lodges.

**Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose): White bass have been hitting on crankbaits trolled along rocky shorelines and the flooded areas of vegetation. Crappies have been hitting on minnows fished around structure in 8 to 12 feet of water.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Crappies and bluegills have been hitting on small jigs. Some anglers have had success using night crawlers in the evenings for walleyes.

**Lake Wapello** (Davis): Crappies and bluegills have been biting on small jigs fished around structure. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial presentations.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Anglers fishing from boats and from shore are doing well on crappies. Fishing from shore, try off the rock jetties, handicap pier or around any brush. Boat anglers can try these areas, as well as around the islands and some deeper brush. Either live bait or artificial lures will work right now.

**Skunk River** (Washington and Henry): The river is bank full. Look for the river to start to recede at Brighton by Thursday.

**Iowa River** (Louisa): The river is bank full and looks to remain close to full through this week.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

### **Northeast**

**Mississippi River 9 to 15:** Water levels remain high to begin the week and were 9.3 feet at Lansing, 17.5 feet at Lynxville, Wis., 9.0 feet at Guttenberg, 10.78 at Dubuque, 9.39 feet at Bellevue, and 12.41 feet at Camanche. Water clarity is fair in the three upper pools, but remains turbid in the lower pools. Temperature is 58 degrees. River levels are forecast to rise slightly or remain stable over the coming week.

Walleye fishing is good in **Pools 9 to 11** and fair in the tailwaters of **Pools 12 and 13**. Use jigs and minnows or three-way rigs. Some sauger are also being caught.

White bass fishing is good in the tailwaters in **Pools 9 to 11** on spinner baits.

Crappie fishing is fair to good in **Pools 9 to 15** using small minnows. Try Minnesota Slough in **Pool 9**, Harpers Slough in **Pool 10**, and Cassville Slough in **Pool 11**. In **Pools 12 to 15**, crappies and bluegills have moved into the side channels and sloughs near the backwaters. Small jigs were working well on both species. Due to low visibility, slow down the presentation to catch more fish.

Largemouth bass have moved into the side channels and sloughs in **Pools 12 to 15**. Keep your presentation slow in the turbid water.

Anglers are catching smallmouth bass in **Pools 12 to 15** using shad or crayfish-imitating crankbaits along the rocks in the main channel, side channels and wing dams for smallies.

**Cedar River** (Mitchell, Floyd and Chickasaw): Water conditions were high, but improving. Smallmouth bass fishing is fair, but should continue to improve throughout the river. Look for rocky shorelines for best fishing success. Try fishing for walleyes in the deeper pools using crankbaits or jigs tipped with a minnow.

**Cedar River** (Bremer and Black Hawk), **Wapsipinicon** (Buchanan) and **Maquoketa** (Delaware) **rivers:** Rivers are still high following heavy rains from the previous two weeks. Conditions are beginning to improve with some reports of walleye being caught in slack water areas protected from the faster main flows. Fish are

beginning to move to over-wintering areas, so focus on deep-water out of the main current. Fish these areas with slower presentations like a jig tipped with a minnow or Lindy-rig.

**Turkey River** (Clayton): Water levels are high, but falling. Without additional rain, the smallmouth bass fishing will improve throughout the river. Try using a variety of lures and live baits for smallmouth bass. Walleye can be caught in the deeper pools with slow-moving artificial lures.

**Upper Iowa River** (Winneshiek and Allamakee): Water levels are high, but should continue to fall with the absence of rain. Smallmouth bass fishing has slowed with the high water, but should improve. Try fishing crankbaits and twister tails in the pool and riffle areas. Walleye fishing has slowed. Walleyes were biting on crankbaits, shadrap and white twister tails in the deeper pools before the high water hit. Try tipping lead heads tipped with a night crawler fished slowly on the bottom of deep holes.

**Yellow River** (Allamakee): Water levels are a little high, but clarity is good. Smallmouth bass and trout fishing is good and should continue to pick up. Try using twister tails in a variety of colors.

**Black Hawk County Area Lakes:** Fishing is fair to good for largemouth bass using live baits or slow-working artificial baits. Bluegill and crappie fishing is slow.

**Lake Hendricks** (Howard): Largemouth fishing is fair to good with a variety of artificial lures fished along the shoreline. Channel catfish fishing has slowed, but a few are still being caught on night crawlers fished on the bottom. Bluegill fishing is fair. Try using smaller gear when fishing mid-day to hook the finicky ones. Crappie fishing has slowed; try using jigs tipped with a minnow for best success.

**Lake Meyer** (Winneshiek): Some of the 7 to 9-inch crappies are moving into the brush piles on the south and east sides of the lake and are being caught with small jigs or minnows fished under a bobber. Try throwing the rig a few feet past the snags and reeling in toward them. This works really well if the wind is blowing into the snags. Bluegill fishing is good for medium-sized fish on night crawlers or angle worms. Some larger bluegills are being caught while fishing for crappie using jigs. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using spinner baits working the shoreline. The bite has slowed for channel catfish, but a few are still being caught in the afternoon in the east cove of the lake.

**Volga Lake** (Fayette): Largemouth bass fishing is good in the early morning and late evening hours. Use slower-moving artificial lures worked along structure. Bluegill fishing is fair using wax worms or night crawlers on a very small hook under a bobber. Catfishing has slowed, but there is an excellent population of channel catfish in this lake. A good number of them are in the trophy-sized range.

**Trout** fishing and stream conditions have improved greatly over the past few days; however, due to severe washouts on the county roads, Fountain Springs and Twin Bridges in Delaware County will not be stocked again until next spring. Bailey's Ford also received substantial damage due to flooding; however, it is now fishable and is being stocked weekly. The remaining trout streams have cleared up and are in good condition. Weekly stockings on the trout streams continue through the month of October and most will be stocked, unannounced, one time in November. Fall is a beautiful time of the year to fish the coldwater streams of northeast Iowa. To see which streams are being stocked weekly, call the hatchery hotline at 563-927-5736.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

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